

PATENT



43379

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
Kazushi TORII et al. :  
Serial No.: *not yet received* :  
Filed: *herewith* :  
For: WATER-ABSORBING AGENT AND :  
PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR, AND :  
WATER-ABSORBENT STRUCTURE :

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

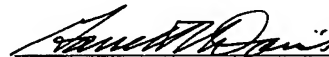
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants bring the disclosures attached and listed on completed Form PTO-1449 to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-31362/1993 and Japanese Patent No. 3017584/1999 and JP-A-96159/1993 correspond to U.S. Patent No. 5,382,610. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-180233/1983 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,666,983. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-16903/1986 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,734,478. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-117393/1977 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,051,086. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-136588/1976 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,043,952. Japanese Patent Publications JP-A-211305/1986 and JP-A-264006/1986 correspond to U.S. Patent No. 4,755,560. German Patent Publication DE 40 20 780 C1 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,409,771. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-197818/2000 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,297,319. WO

97/03114 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,981,070. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-509591/1997 corresponds to WO 95/22356. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-342963/2000 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,797,893. WO 96/17884 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,985,944. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-227435/1990 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,002,986. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-53550/1996 corresponds to WO 96/05234. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-290000/1997 corresponds to WO 97/39780. Japanese Patent No. 2624089/1997 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,281,340. Japanese Patent Publication JP-A-302876/2000 corresponds to EP 1 029 886 A2.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett V. Davis  
Reg. No. 32,023

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.  
1300 19<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036-1649  
(202) 659-9076

Dated: January 27, 2002

Form PTO-1449      U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379 APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al. FILING DATE Herewith	SERIAL NO. not yet received  GROUP
---	---	---

 JC828 U.S. PTO  
 10/053659  
 01/24/02

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		3 8 8 8 2 5 7	6/1975	COOK et al.	128	296	
		5 3 8 2 6 1 0	1/1995	HARADA et al.	524	35	
		4 6 2 5 0 0 1	11/1986	TSUBAKIMOTO et al.	526	88	
		4 6 5 4 0 3 9	3/1987	BRANDT et al.	604	368	
		5 2 5 0 6 4 0	10/1993	IRIE et al.	526	88	
		5 2 7 5 7 7 3	1/1994	IRIE et al.	264	141	
		4 0 7 6 6 6 3	2/1978	MASUDA et al.	260	17.4 GC	
		4 3 8 9 5 1 3	6/1983	MIYAZAKI	525	186	
		4 1 2 4 7 4 8	11/1978	FUJIMOTO et al.	526	8	
		3 9 5 9 5 6 9	5/1976	BURKHOLDER, JR.	428	475	
		3 9 3 5 0 9 9	1/1976	WEAVER et al.	210	43	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		5 3 1 3 6 2	2/1993	Japan				X
		3 0 1 7 5 8 4	12/1999	Japan				X
		5 6 9 1 5 9	4/1993	Japan				X
		0 4 5 6 1 3 6	11/1991	EPO				
		5 8 1 8 0 2 3 3	10/1983	Japan				X

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449      U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379 APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al. FILING DATE Herewith	SERIAL NO. not yet received  GROUP
---	---	---

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4 6 6 6 9 8 3	5/1987	TSUBAKIMOTO et al.	525	119	
		4 7 3 4 4 7 8	3/1988	TSUBAKIMOTO et al.	527	300	
		4 0 5 1 0 8 6	9/1977	REID	260	17.4 GC	
		4 0 4 3 9 5 2	8/1977	GANSLAW et al.	260	17.4	
		4 7 5 5 5 6 0	7/1988	ITO et al.	525	100	
		5 4 0 9 7 7 1	4/1995	DAHMEN et al.	428	327	
		6 2 9 7 3 1 9	10/2001	NAGASUNA et al.	525	96	
		5 1 6 4 4 5 9	11/1992	KIMURA et al.	525	384	
		5 9 8 1 0 7 0	11/1999	ISHIZAKI et al.	428	407	
		5 7 9 7 8 9 3	8/1998	WADA et al.	604	372	
		5 9 8 5 9 4 4	11/1999	ISHIZAKI et al.	521	64	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
		6 1 1 6 9 0 3	1/1986	Japan			YES    NO X
	5	9 1 8 9 1 0 3	10/1984	Japan			X (Abstract)
	5	2 1 1 7 3 9 3	10/1977	Japan			X
	5	1 1 3 6 5 8 8	11/1976	Japan			X
	6	1 2 5 7 2 3 5	11/1986	Japan			X (Abstract)

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379		SERIAL NO. not yet received	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al.			
				FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6	0	1	1	1	9	6	1/20000	WANG et al.	604	368		
	5	0	0	2	9	8	6	3/1991	FUJIURA et al.	524	47		
	5	2	8	1	3	4	0	1/1994	SATO et al.	210	734		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
	DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	6	2	7	7	4	5		1/1987	Japan				X	(Abstract)
	6	1	2	1	1	3	0	9/1986	Japan					X
	6	1	2	5	2	2	1	11/1986	Japan				X	(Abstract)
	6	1	2	6	4	0	0	11/1986	Japan					X
	4	0	2	0	7	8	0	8/1991	Germany					X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE						ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379				SERIAL NO. <i>not yet received</i>					
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  (Use several sheets if necessary)										APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al.							
										FILING DATE Herewith				GROUP			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS																	
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																	
		DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES      NO			
		9	9	4	2	4	9	4	8/1999	PCT				X			
		9	9	4	3	7	2	0	9/1999	PCT				X			
		0	0	3	1	1	5	3	6/2000	PCT				X			
	2000	1	9	7	8	1	8		7/2000	Japan				X			
		0	8	2	7	7	5	3	3/1998	EPO							
OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)																	
EXAMINER											DATE CONSIDERED						
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.																	

Form PTO-1449      U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379 APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al. FILING DATE Herewith	SERIAL NO. not yet received  GROUP
---	---	---

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
0 3 4 9 2 4 0	1/1990	EPO				
0 7 6 1 2 4 1	3/1997	EPO				
2000 9 5 9 5 5	4/2000	Japan			X (Abstract)	
3 1 0 7 9 0 9	9/2000	Japan			X (Abstract)	
6 3 7 0	1/1994	Japan				X

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449      U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379		SERIAL NO. <i>not yet received</i>	
		APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al.			
		FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																
		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION			
														YES	NO	
		9	7	0	3	1	1	4	1/1997	WO						X
		9	5	0	9	5	9	1	9/1997	Japan						X
	2000	3	4	2	9	6	3		12/2000	Japan						X
		9	3	1	2	3			1/1997	Japan						X
		9	5	2	2	3	5	6	8/1995	PCT						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)												

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



Form PTO-1449      U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379		SERIAL NO. not yet received	
		APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al.			
		FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS															
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																
		DOCUMENT NUMBER								DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION		
		9	6	1	7	8	8	4	6/1996	WO					YES	NO
		9	9	3	4	8	4	1	7/1999	PCT						
		9	9	3	4	8	4	2	7/1999	PCT						
		9	9	3	4	8	4	3	7/1999	PCT						
		9	9	2	5	3	9	3	5/1999	PCT						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449      U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379	SERIAL NO. not yet received
APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al.		
FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
2 2 2 7 4 3 5	9/1990	Japan				
8 5 3 5 5 0	2/1996	Japan				X
9 6 0 5 2 3 4	2/1996	PCT				
9 7 3 9 7 8 0	10/1997	PCT				
9 2 9 0 0 0 0	11/1997	Japan				X

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 43379		SERIAL NO. not yet received	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Kazushi TORII et al.			
				FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS											
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION		
		2 6 2 4 0 8 9	4/1997	Japan			YES	NO	
	2000	3 0 2 8 7 6	10/2000	Japan				X	
		1 0 2 9 8 8 6	8/2000	EPO					

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.